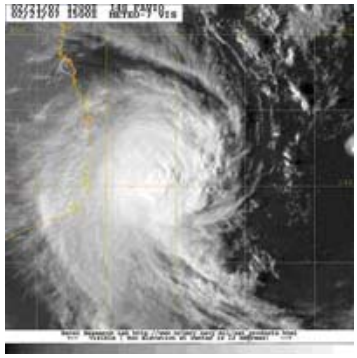
News release

21 February 2007

Tropical Cyclone Favio heads for Mozambique



High winds and torrential rain are forecast for parts of Mozambique that have already seen recent floods, as Tropical Cyclone Favio moves into the region.

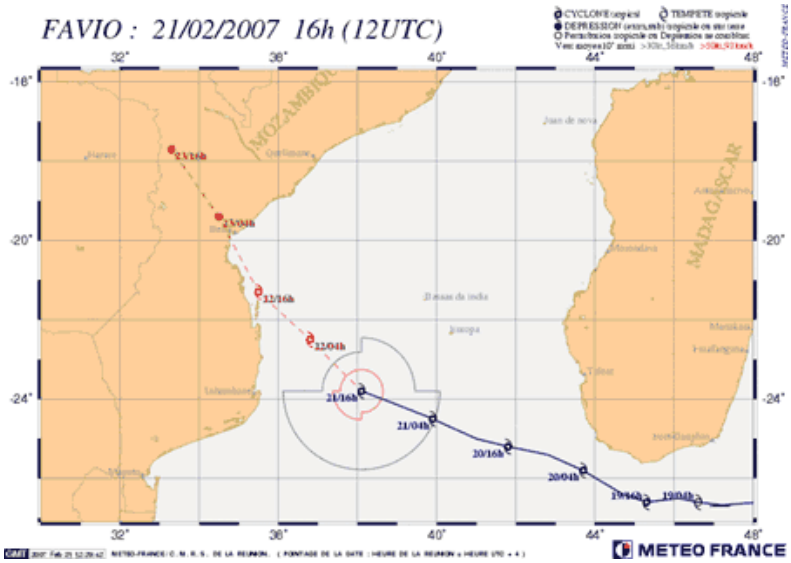
The cyclone is expected to bring several more inches of rain to the low-lying regions south of the Zambezi River. Wind speeds are currently more than 100 m.p.h. near the centre of the storm and these are not expected to decrease significantly before landfall early Friday morning.

This will be the sixth named storm of this season in the south-west Indian Ocean, which runs from November to April. Favio could be the most severe cyclone to hit the region since Cyclone Eline in 2000, which brought devastating floods to the area.

The south-west Indian Ocean regional tropical cyclone forecasting centre is on the French island of La Réunion. Forecasters there use information from a number of sources, including the Met Office, to produce the best estimate of the cyclone's strength and track.

The Met Office is running a high resolution computer model for Africa, and is using the information to provide severe weather forecast advice to appropriate organisations and governments. The partnerships that have been developed between the Met Office and national weather services and government in Africa play a vital role at such times as this.

The latest forecast track is shown below.



Notes for editors

The Met Office is providing forecast information on the progress of Favio to government departments to help deal with the situation. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development are responsible for issuing advice to British Nationals in Mozambique and are assisting UK-based relief agencies in their work already underway to help the 120,000 people affected by the recent floods.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

DFID

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